1:Dobrizhoffer M-S (ca. 1750) 1822
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is asserted that "washing in cold water contributes to lengthen life, and that the use of warm baths has a contrary effect." P. 131. The same author is of opinion that "persons who pass great part of their lives out of doors are generally longer-lived than those that stay more within." The Abipones spend most of their time out of the house, and consequently breathe the pure air of heaven which is so salutary to the human body. Though they dwell under mats spread like a tent, or in fixed huts, they never suffer the air to be entirely excluded. Nor are they content with living in the open air, they also choose to be buried there, entertaining an incredible repugnance to sepulchres within the church. As the Abipones live long and enjoy excellent health, though entirely destitute of physicians and druggists, I can hardly help reckoning their absence amongst the causes which co-operate to render the savages superior in vigour and longevity to most Europeans, amongst whom as physicians are numerous, and medicine in general use, there are many sick persons and few very old men. The Abiponian physicians, of whom I shall speak more fully hereafter, are impostors more ignorant than brutes, and totally unworthy the splendid title of physicians, being born not to heal the sick, but to cheat them with juggleries and frauds.

1:Dobrizhoffer M-5 (ca. 1760) 1822
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342 484 of their tent, that the waters may flow off, and be carried elsewhere. They generally send a tame mare with a bell about her neck to a drove 231 484 of horses, when they are sent to pasture; for they will never go out of sight of her, and if dispersed up and down the plain, through fear of a tiger, return to her as to their mother; on which account the Spaniards call this mare *la madrina*, and the Abipones, *latè*, which means a mother. For the same reason, on a few of the horses they place shackles of soft leather, that they may crop the grass without wandering far from the tent, and be at hand, if it be found necessary to travel in the night. Not only the 48 484 men, but even very young women cross rivers without ford, bridge, or boat, by swimming. The children, the saddles, and other luggage 484 are sent over on a bull's hide, called by the 501 Abipones, *ñatatè*, and by the Spaniards, *la pelota*, and generally made use of in crossing the smaller rivers. I will describe the rude structure of it. A hairy, raw, and entirely un- [28] dressed hide is made almost square, by having the extremities of the feet and neck cut off. The four sides are raised like a hat, to the height of about two spans, and each is tied with a thong, that they may remain erect, and preserve their squareness of form. At the bottom of the pelota, the saddles and other luggage are

1:Dobrizhoffer M-S (ca. 1760) 1822
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like an acorn, is applied to the bole of the softer, and whirled quickly round with both hands. By this mutual and quick attrition of both woods, a little dust is rubbed off which at the same moment catches fire and emits smoke; to this the Indians apply straw, cow-dung, dry leaves, &c. for fuel. The soft wood used for this purpose is taken either from the tree ambay, from the shrub caraquatà, or from the cedar; but the harder, which they whirl round with the hand, comes from the tree tatayi, which affords a saffron-coloured wood, as hard as box, and fit for dying clothes yellow, together with mulberries very like those of our own country.

Whenever they think fit to sleep at noon, or pass the night by the way, they anxiously look out for some place affording an opportunity of water, wood, and pasture. If there arise any suspicion of a hostile ambuscade, they hide themselves in lurking holes, rendered inaccessible by the nature of the place. You would say that they and their families are at home, wherever they go, for they carry about mats to serve for a house, as a snail does its shell. Two poles are fixed into the ground, and to them is tied a mat, twice or thrice folded to exclude the wind and rain. That the ground upon which they lie may not be wetted by a heavy shower, they providently dig a little channel at the side

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FORMERLY WHEN THEY WERE
unacquainted with the very name of iron, they 411
fought with wooden spears, fixing a cow's or [237]
stag's horn to the end of them by way of a
point. But when the Abipones obtained iron [177]
points from the Spaniards, they dexterously
inserted them into their spears, and used them
to slaughter those from whom they had re-
ceived them. When going to fight they grease
the point of the spear with tallow, that it may
enter more readily and deeper into the flesh.
We have sometimes seen spears four palms
deep in hostile blood, with such force had the
Abipones driven them into the sides of the sa-
vages who attacked our colony. As their tents [342]
and huts are in general rather low, they fix their
spears at the threshold of the door to have
them always in readiness. By the number of
spears you may know the number of warriors
which the horde contains. As European gene- [723]
rals, to conceal the scanty number of their
forces, and to supply the want of warlike in-
struments, have sometimes placed machines of
painted wood, on mounds, to frighten their
more numerous adversary; we, in like manner,
availing ourselves of the same species of cun-
ning, fixed spears hastily made of reeds or
wood, in the houses of the absent Abipones;
deluded by which the enemies' scouts reported
to their countrymen that the town was full of
DEFENDERS.